

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image-processing method comprising:

transferring image data to a storage unit, the image data being formed by several pieces of image data, the image data being separated from several lines of image data;

sequentially reading out the several pieces of image data from said storage unit; and

filtering target image data subject to filtering using predetermined pieces of the read image data.

2. An image-processing method comprising:

sequentially entering several pieces of image data that are used to filter several pieces of target image data subject to filtering;

shifting the sequentially entered several pieces of image data;

parallel-feeding predetermined pieces of the shifted image data; and

filtering the several pieces of target image data subject to filtering using the parallel-fed predetermined pieces of the shifted image data.

3. An image processor comprising:

a first storage unit operable to store image data formed by several pieces of image data, the image data being separated from several lines of image data;

a data readout unit operable to sequentially read out the several pieces of image data stored by said first storage unit;

a filtering unit operable to filter target image data subject to filtering using predetermined pieces of the image data that are read out from said data readout unit;

a second storage unit operable to store the filtered target image data subject to filtering; and

a data write unit operable to write the filtered target image data subject to filtering to said second storage unit.

4. An image processor as defined in claim 3, wherein said filtering unit comprises a data output control unit operable to feed the filtered target image data subject to filtering, but operable not to feed a predetermined piece of non-filtered image data in accordance with mode information.

5. An image processor as defined in claim 3, wherein said filtering unit comprises a data output control unit operable to provide a countdown from an initial value each time when the image data is fed, the initial value being determined in accordance with the number of pixels to be processed, said data output control unit being operable to feed only a predetermined piece of non-filtered image data as well as filtered target image data subject to filtering in accordance with results from the countdown.

6. An image processor as defined in claim 3, wherein said filtering unit comprises a image data-retaining unit operable to retain several pieces of image data for use at the time of next filtering, the several pieces of image data for use at the time of next filtering being selected from among the several pieces of image data read out by said data readout unit from said first storage unit.